

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8337

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

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DIA WASHDC
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7/13 AF

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 15458

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT -- NOVEMBER 19, 1974

GENERAL

1. KHIEU SAMPHAN LAUNCHED NUMEROUS PROPAGANDA DECLARATIONS DURING THE WEEK, ONE OF THEM PUBLISHED IN A PROMINENT FRENCH MONTHLY. HE BROKE NO NEW GROUND, REITERATED THE OTHER SIDE'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE BUT WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT KC PROSPECTS FOR THE DRY SEASON. APROMINENT PHNOM PENH EDUCATOR AND MEMBER OF THE GKR DELEGATION TO THE UNESCO CONFERENCE IN PARIS DEFECTED TO GRUNK DURING THE WEEK; THE OTHER SIDE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE PROPAGANDA CAPITAL OF THIS. AT THE UN, BOTH SIDES CONTINUED TO MANEUVER, AS THE LANGUAGE OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WAS MODIFIED, AND GRUNK SUPPORTERS SOUGHT TO FORCE THROUGH WHAT THEY FEEL TO BE A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS EARLIER DATE FOR THE OPENING OF DISCUSSION OF THE KHMER ISSUE. AND IMF TEAM VISITING PHNOM PENH CALLED THE GKR ECONOMIC REFORMS NECESSARY AND OVERDUE, AND ANOTHER TRUCK CONVOY CARRIED ESSENTIAL RICE OVER ROUTE 5 FROM BATTAMBANG TO KOMPONG CHHNANG FOR ULTIMATE USE IN PHNOM PENH. ON THE MILITARY FRONT, FANK DEFENDERS CONTINUED TO DO WELL AT SVAY RIENG AND INFILCTED HEAVY LOSSES NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. RADIO PEKING HAS ANNOUNCED (AND AFP PARIS HAS ALSO REPORTED)
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THAT IM SAROEUN, A MEMBER OF THE GKR DELEGATION TO THE UNESCO CONFERENCE IN PARIS, PROCLAIMED ON NOVEMBER 16 HIS DEFLECTION TO GRUNK AND APPEALED TO THE CONFERENCE NOT TO RECOGNIZE THE GKR DELEGATION. SAROEUN, A PROMINENT INTELLECTUAL, HAS BEEN RECTOR OF THE PHNOM PENH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY. HIS PAST POSITIONS INCLUDE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF RADIO AND TELEVISION. (COMMENT: SAROEUN'S DEFLECTION IS A FEATHER IN THE CAP FOR GRUNK BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION ON THE

GKR DELEGATION TO UNESCO AND BECAUSE OF THE RESPECT HE ENJOYS IN PHNOM PENH STUDENT-TEACHER CIRCLES. IT MAY WELL BE A DAMAGING BLOW FOR FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION PAN SOTHI. WHO HEADED THEIR UNESCO DELEGATION AND WHO IS KNOWN TO BE A CLOSE FRIEND OF SAROEUN.)

3. PRESIDENT LON NOL CELEBRATED HIS 63RD BIRTHDAY ON NOVEMBER 13.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

4. THE AMENDED TEXT OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT) WAS FORMALLY CIRCULATED AS A UN DOCUMENT ON NOVEMBER 13. THE NEW LANGUAGE IN THE SECOND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH REQUESTS ONLY THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL LEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE PARTIES AND DELETS THE PREVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE MEMBER STATES. ON TIMING, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA IS STILL APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF THE KHMER ISSUE ON NOVEMBER 25, JUST AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE PALESTINE DEBATE, WHILE THE FRIENDLY CO-SPONSORS HAVE OPPOSED THIS IN FAVOR OF THE FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED. ALTHOUGH THE DISPUTE CONTINUES, THOSE IN SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION SEEM TO BE NOW ACTING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT BOUTEFLIKA WILL PREVAIL AND DEBATE WILL IN FACT BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 25.

5. THERE MAY BE SOME PLENARY SESSION STATEMENTS OPPOSING GKR PARTICIPATION IN THE ROME WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, BUT FOR THE MOMENT, NO MORE SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO KHMER CREDENTIALS IS EXPECTED.

6. HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG, FORMERLY CHARGE' IN PARIS, HAS RECEIVED AGREEMENT AS GKR AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN WITH PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN AMMAN. THE DATE FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS IS NOT YET KNOWN.

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GRUNK/FUNK

7. KHIEU SAMPHAN TOOK OVER THE GRUNK/FUNK PROPAGANDA SPOTLIGHT THIS WEEK WITH SEVERAL RADIO BROADCASTS AND AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE FRENCH MONTHLY PUBLICATION "LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE". IN THE LATTER, SAMPHAN PRESENTED A PREDICABLE "TOUR D'HORIZON" STRESSING GRUNK/FUNK'S PREDOMINANT POSITION INSIDE CAMBODIA, AND ABROAD, AND THE WEAK, UNREPRESENTATIVE AND TRAITOROUS NATURE OF THE GKR. HEVAWE CHAPTER AND VERSE ON THE U.S. "INTERVENTION" IN CAMBODIA AND MADE THE USUAL BOILER-PLATE CLAIMS ABOUT FINAL VICTORY. THE ARTICLE WAS EVIDENTLY TIMED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE UNGA DEBATE ON THE KHMER QUESTION.

8. SAMPHAN ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT ON UN OVER FUNK RADIO, A

HARSH AND VITUPERATIVE BLAST IN WHICH THE GRUNK DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT NEGOTIATIONS AND CHARACTERIZED THE FRIENDLY UN RESOLUTION AS A "TRICKY MANEUVER" AND A "SHAMELESS PLOT". HE DESCRIBED THE GKR LEADERS AS "ABOMINABLE" AND CALLED FOR THEIR ANNIHILATION.

9. IN A SEPARATE BROADCAST ON THE JUST COMPLETED WET SEASON CAMPAIGN, SAMPHAN ECHOED THE SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE MILITARY SUMMARIES CONTAINED IN RECENT FUNK PROPAGANDA (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT). HE PLACED CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON THE "GRREAT VICTORIES" BY GRUNK/FUNK IN THE "REAR AREA" AS WELL AS INTERNATIONALLY BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY, HE DID NOT PREDICT VICTORY AT THE UN. (OTHER RECENT BROADCASTS BY THE OTHER SIDE ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY CIRCUMSPECT). FINALLY, HE OUTLINED THREE "TASKS" FOR THE DRY SEASON AS (A) TO PUSH THE "GREAT OFFENSIVE AROUND AND INSIDE PHNOM PENH, ALONG STRATEGIC ROUTES, AND PROVINCIAL CAPITALS; (B) CONTINUE TO MOBILIZE AND PUSH REAR AREA PRODUCTION; AND (C) COMPLETELY TO WIPE OUT ALL "PACIFICATION" MEASURES BY THE GKR IN THE "LIBERATED 9, ".

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ACTION EA-10

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SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 CIEP-01 /088 W

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P R 191115Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8338

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10. COMMENT: SAMPHAN'S STATEMENTS REAFFIRM AND REINFORCE THE RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE AND CAUTIOUS LINE TACSN BY THE OTHER SIDE'S PROPAGANDA IN RECENT WEEKS. THE UNDRAMATIC MILITARY GOALS, THE EMPHASIS ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE REAR AREA AND THE NEED FOR EVEN GREATER PROGRESS THERE, AND THE RETICENCE ON PROSPECTS AT THE UN ARE ALL THEMES POSSIBLY DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT THE CADRE WITH THE PROSPECT THAT THE GKR MAY BE AROUND A WHILE AND THAT A SUSTAINED EFFORT WILL BE NEEDED TO TOPLE IT.

11. THE GRUNK ECONOMIC DELEGATION LED BY IENG SARY (SEE PREVIOUS KR'S) ARRIVED IN PYONGYANG FROM PEKING ON NOVEMBER 15. THE RECEPTION EXTENDED BY THE NORTH KOREANS THUS FAR HAS BEEN CORRECT, ALTHOUGH NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN EXTENSIVE

PROPAGANDA COVERAGE.

ECONOMIC

12. AN IMF TEAM, PRIOR TO CONCLUDING THEIR VISIT TO PHNOM PENH THIS WEEK, REVIEWED THEIR FINDINGS AT A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND. THE IMF TEAM NOTED THAT BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES FOR CY 1974 WILL PROBABLY BE MORE THAN DOUBLE THOSE OF LAST YEAR WHILE GKR REVENUES (EXCLUSIVE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE) ARE APPROXIMATELY A TENTH OF THOSE OF THE 1960'S. THE IMF ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONTINUED IMPORTS AND ASKED FOR INCREASED ESF CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE FORTHCOMING YEAR. THE ESF SESSION CLOSED WITH AN AGREEMENT TO HOLD AN ESF DONORS MEETING IN MANILA ON CONFIDENTIAL

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DECEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS CY 1975 CONTRIBUTIONS. COMMENT: THE IMF VISIT WAS BOTH TIMELY AND BENEFICIAL. WE ARE IN ACCORD WITH MOST OF THE TEAM'S FINDINGS, AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEY MADE TO THE GKR, (I.E. INCREASING THE EXCHANGE RATE AND A TIGHTER CONTROL OVER BUDGET EXPENDITURES). PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING, TO US AND THE GKR, WAS THE PUBLIC STATEMENT MADE BY THE HEAD OF THE TEAM THAT THE RECENT GKR ECONOMIC CORRECTION MEASURES WERE BOTH NECESSARY AND LONG OVERDUE. END COMMENT.

13. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON NOVEMBER 17 TOTALLED 25,483 METRIC TONS (M/T) OR 33 DAYS SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION RATE OF 770 M/T PER DAY. TWELVE THOUSAND METRIC TONS OF SURPLUS BATTAMBANG RICE FROM THE 1973/74 HARVEST HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED TO PHNOM PENH. EIGHTEEN HUNDRED ADDITIONAL TONS WERE CARRIED BY A TRUCK CONVOY FROM BATTAMBANG TO KOMPONG CHHNANG THIS WEEK. THIS IS THE SECOND SUCH CONVOY (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT) AND BRINGS THE TOTAL TRANSPORTED IN THIS FASHION OVER ROUTE 5 SINCE ITS RE-OPENING TO 2,800 M/T. THIS RICE IS NOW IN KOMPONG CHHNANG AWAITING SHIPMENT TO PHNOM PENH BY USAID CHARTERED RIVERCRAFT.

14. MEAT AND POULTRY PRICES SHOWED MODEST INCREASES, BUT FOR MOST OTHER MAJOR COMMODITIES PRICES WERE STEADY OR DECLINED IN PHNOM PENH RETAIL MARKETS DURING THE WEEK. U.S. RICE DROPPED 14 PERCENT; SUGAR AND MILK 7 PERCENT; FRESH WATER FISH 5 PERCENT; SALT 4 PERCENT; AND ORANGES 18 PERCENT. BATTAMBANG RICE WAS UNCHANGED, AS WERE MOST FRUITS AND LOCALLY MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS. THE BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATE FOR THE U.S. DOLLAR DECREASED BY 11 PERCENT TO 1,950 RIELS PER DOLLAR DURING THE WEEK WHILE THE PRICE OF GOLD FLUCTUATED BUTILLED AT \$179 PER TROY OUNCE, A ONE PERCENT DECREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS MONDAY. THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE REMAINED AT 1,610 RIELS PER DOLLAR.

15. ONE THOUSAND EIGHTY-EIGHT METRIC TONS OF U.S. CORN ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH FROM SAIGON DURING THE WEEK. STILL IN SAIGON ARE 3,144 M/T OF CORN AWAITING SHIPMENT ON SUBSEQUENT MEKONG CONVOYS.

MILITARY

16. THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SVAY RIENG IN SOUTH-EASTERN CAMBODIA
CONTINUED TO RECEIVE KC ATTACKS BY FIRE INCLUDING 107MM ROCKETS AND
LIGHT GROUND PROBES DURING THE WEEK. HOWEVER, THESE EFFORTS BY THE
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KC HAVE BEEN IN LARGE PART STYMIED BY SVAY RIENG DEFENDERS WHO ARE
CONDUCTING AGGRESSIVE CLEARING OPERATIONS.

17 ANOTHER AREA OF CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY WAS AT BARRONG KHNR KAR,
AN OUTPOFD TO THE NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH WHERE SEVERAL GOVERNMENT
POSITIONS WERE LOST LAST WEEK. THANKS IN LARGE PART TO FANK AIR
AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT, HEAVY ENEMY LOSSES HAVE BEEN INFILCTED
(OVER 100 KC SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED ON NOVEMBER WULN BUT
COMMUNIST RESISTANCE TO FANK EFFORTS TO RETAKE THE LOST POSITIONS
HAS BEEN STIFF AND PROGRESS DIFFICULT.

18. FANK FORCES ALONG ROUTE 4 SCORED A GOOD SUCCESS SOUTHWEST OF
KOMPONG SPEU AT MOHA SANG AS THEY KILLED 53 KC SOLDIERS AND RETOOK
POSITIONS THAT HAD BEEN LOST EARLIER. FURTHER WEST ON ROUTE 4, THE
BESIEGED GARRISON OF KOMPONG SEILA FOUGHT OFF AN ENEMY ATTACK,
REPORTEDLY KILLING 20 IN THE PROCESS. THE BASSAC OPERATION
SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH CONTINUES IN THE FASHION OF THE PAST
SEVERAL WEEKS -- HARD FIGHTING ON BOTH SIDES, BUT LITTLE OR NO
PROGRESS BY EITHER IN THIS MOST DIFFICULT OF TERRAIN.

19. A MEKONG RIVER CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH DURING THE WEEK
ABSORBING FIVE ATTACKS BY FIRE EN ROUTE BUT SUFFERING ONLY LIGHT
DAMAGE. THERE WERE ALSO TWO ROUND TRIPS BY CONVOY FROM PHNOM PENH
TO KOMPONG CHHNANG WHICH WERE COMPLETED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

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